



The Federal Drug Abuse Program

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

In a statement dated March 11, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon pointed out that drug addiction among school-age youth is increasing at an alarming rate. He said that although funds for drug education and training have grown sixfold between fiscal years 1969 and 1971, the situation calls for much greater effort.

The President then announced a greatly expanded Federal program to fight this growing problem. The major points of the new effort are as follows:

- A \$3.5 million program operated by the Office of Education to train school personnel, particularly teachers, in the fundamentals of drug abuse education.
- Creation of a National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information and Education, giving the public one central office to contact.
- Publication of a book in which, for the first time, all of the concerned Federal departments

and agencies have pooled their knowledge of the national drug problem.

- Modification of a program of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to allow large cities to apply for funds to be used for drug education, as well as for law enforcement programs.

- Development by the Advertising Council, Inc., of an expanded public service campaign on drug abuse in cooperation with the news media and the Federal Government.

- Close cooperation of the Administration with concerned citizens' organizations.

Closely related to these projects is the Administration's decision to more than double the amount of money that will be spent this fiscal year on research into the effects of marijuana on man. The President remarked that one of the great tragedies of the past decade has been that our schools, where our children should learn about the wonder of life, have often been the places where they learn the living—and

sometimes actual—death of drug abuse. He concluded that there is no priority higher in this Administration than to see that children and the public learn the facts about drugs in the right way and for the right purpose through education.

DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

As shown in the table, funding for the overall Drug Abuse Program has increased from \$66.5 million in fiscal 1969 to \$105.8 million in fiscal 1970—it will increase to \$135.6 million in fiscal 1971.

Teacher training. For the Office of Education's training program, grants will be given to States based on their populations. The minimum will be \$40,000 and the maximum \$210,000. States will be encouraged to match their grants, but this will not be necessary. Each State will be free to spend the money on training teachers as it sees fit. However, the Office of Education anticipates that most States will wish to use the Government's training centers that will be operated in key locations throughout the country.

As the first step, a National Action Committee has been formed to provide leadership, technical assistance, and aid in program planning, development, monitoring, and evaluation. The committee includes representatives from education, medicine, law, social work, and the behavioral sciences. Also included are youth and members drawn from the various ethnic groups and from both the public and private sectors. The committee sponsored a national conference in April 1970 to develop details of the program with representatives of all the States.

This summer, States that wish to participate will send teams of teachers, counselors, school administrators, students, and community leaders to be trained at selected university centers. The Office of Education has estimated that 300 persons will receive this intensive training. The universities will draw heavily on regional resources in drug education and will use curriculum materials particularly suitable for their areas.

In the fall, the teams will tour their home States to train additional teachers, administrators, students, and community leaders from all

Federal funds for drug abuse programs, fiscal years 1969-71 (in millions)

Category	1969	1970	1971
Law enforcement.....	\$20.3	\$36.3	\$46.6
Treatment and rehabilitation....	27.1	39.3	53.4
Education and training.....	2.0	9.9	12.4
Research and other support....	17.1	20.3	23.2
Total.....	66.5	105.8	135.6

local school districts. In all, these workshops will be attended by about 150,000 teachers and 75,000 students and community leaders. Thus, the trained people will be capable of presenting the fundamental facts for a drug education program to every school district in the country.

In spring 1971, the National Action Committee will sponsor a series of regional conferences to evaluate the effectiveness of this program and to plan next steps.

National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information. The Clearinghouse, the central office which the public can contact for assistance, is collecting and disseminating materials and data taken not only from Federal programs but from appropriate private, State, and local projects. For example, the Clearinghouse is making available material on drug education curriculums that are already being used in various cities and States. It also maintains a computer data bank on a wide variety of drug abuse programs that enables the Government to give far more detailed answers to queries than is possible under the current decentralized system.

The first publication to go into the Clearinghouse is a booklet entitled "A Federal Source Book: Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Drug Abuse." This booklet, which presents the latest factual information about drug abuse, was produced cooperatively by the Departments of Justice; Health, Education, and Welfare; Defense; Labor; and the Office of Economic Opportunity. For the first time, all concerned Federal departments and agencies have pooled their knowledge on drug abuse in such a manner. Eventually, millions of copies of the book will be distributed. Single copies are now available through the Clearinghouse.

Inquiries handled by the Clearinghouse in its first year are expected to total more than 1/2

million. During this first year the Clearinghouse is expected to distribute more than 5 million pamphlets, and it will stimulate bulk sales—through the Government Printing Office—of many more millions.

Operated by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's National Institute of Mental Health for the Federal Government, the Clearinghouse was begun in April with 16 positions and a yearly budget of about \$700,000. It will be fully operational in fall 1970.

The address of the National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information is 5454 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, Md. 20015.

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration drug program. This agency has made available up to \$10 million to large U.S. cities for programs that include drug education. Under Section 306 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration may allocate at its discretion 15 percent of its total appropriation for action. For fiscal year 1970, this amount is \$32.5 million, of which \$10 million has been set aside for 112 cities which can qualify for up to \$250,000. To qualify, a city may elect one of seven categories or projects of which one is for drug education. Additionally, the Administration has set aside another \$350,000 for metropolitan drug enforcement programs which must include educational expertise as a component part.

Detailed information may be obtained from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Office of Law Enforcement Programs, 633 Indiana Ave. NW., Washington, D.C. 20530. However, all applications must be coordinated with the State planning agency which exists in each jurisdiction under the authority of the Governor.

Expanded drug abuse prevention advertising campaign. In cooperation with the news media and the Advertising Council, Inc., the National Institute of Mental Health launched an all-media advertising program in April 1969. Facts about the dangers of drug abuse were the basis for a series of television and radio spot announcements, magazine and newspaper advertisements, outdoor billboards, transit cards, and posters.

Because of the importance of the drug abuse problem, the Administration asked the Advertising Council to make a drug abuse program one of its major campaigns in 1970. Each of three Federal agencies have allocated \$50,000 annually to fund production costs for a wide range of new advertising messages. The agencies are the Departments of Defense; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Justice.

The advertisements are being prepared on a nonprofit basis by Compton Advertising, Inc., of New York. Compton is participating as a volunteer agency of the Advertising Council, Inc., a public service organization supported by American business, advertising, and the news media.

The initial phase of a 3-year program will be a preventive program aimed at elementary and junior high school children. Relying mainly on television, the commercial messages are short and direct. Animated cartoons are now in production. Additional commercials, advertisements, and posters are designed to reach high school and college youth. Specific antidrug messages for parents, inner city audiences, and members of the Armed Forces also are being developed.

An extensive program to disseminate factual information will support the mass media campaign. Several new films have been completed. One, "Here's Help," a 28-minute color film on treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts, was released to television stations in May. Another "A Day in the Death of Donny B.," also released in May, documents the heroin problem in the inner city.

The films are part of a collection of educational films distributed on free loan by the National Institute of Mental Health Drug Abuse Film Collection, Distribution Branch, National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D.C. 20409.

Intensified professional training in prevention and treatment of drug abuse. The National Institute of Mental Health is acting as the National Institute of Mental Health Drug Abuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation with supplemental funding of \$1 million in fiscal year 1970.

The Institute is establishing four major areas

for intensive training activities: (a) training of professionals and paraprofessionals working or planning to work in the drug field, (b) training of health and social service personnel to counsel drug abusers, (c) preparation of innovative training materials for teachers, and (d) development and dissemination of materials for practicing health professionals.

Priority projects will include 4-week training courses combining didactic and clinical training, to be held at four specialized training centers attached to community treatment facilities, for persons working in drug abuse treatment or rehabilitation. It is anticipated that this program will train 720 people at a cost of \$500,000. Another program includes short-term or continuing education courses designed to enable 1,000 key personnel to obtain training at a cost of \$200,000.

Approximately \$200,000 will be allocated for the production of films, audiovisual materials, tapes, guides, and resource books for teachers. These will be distributed in cooperation with the Office of Education and will be available through the National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information. Materials for professionals in health and social agencies also will be developed and disseminated. The supplemental program will be implemented through contracts to be awarded before June 30, 1970.

National Institute of Mental Health marihuana contract program. The Institute's marihuana research program for fiscal year 1970 will be accelerated as a result of supplemental funding in the amount of \$1 million.

The program, to be developed through contracts, has four major objectives: (a) to ascertain the consequences of long-term use of marihuana in man, (b) to determine the effects of marihuana on driving and other skilled acts, (c) to continue and accelerate studies to determine pharmacological properties of marihuana, its toxicity, and effects on biology and behavior of animals and man, and (d) to continue and accelerate production and supply of marihuana in its various forms to competent investigators.

Studies of chronic use will be conducted in foreign countries where marihuana and hashish have long been in use—selected Latin-American countries and Greece, India, and Israel are being

considered. About \$260,000 has been allocated for these studies.

The studies on effects of marihuana on perception and reaction time related to driving and other skilled acts will include use of a driving simulator. For this research, about \$189,000 has been earmarked.

For short-term and long-term toxicity studies to determine the effects of marihuana on animals and subsequently on man, \$126,000 has been allocated.

Pharmacological screening, as a preliminary step toward determining the site and mechanism of action of marihuana on the body, will be undertaken (\$140,000) as well as biochemical studies to determine effects of marihuana on normal physiological functioning which include impact on the brain and nervous system (\$65,000).

Methods for synthesizing the euphoria-producing elements in marihuana (delta-8 and delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol) have been developed under previous contracts. The supplemental program will enable production of sufficient supplies of these substances, including radioactive materials, to meet research needs (\$95,000).

The current program to grow different varieties of marihuana under controlled conditions will be enlarged by \$125,000 to assure adequate research supplies of plants of known genetic background and purity.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DRUG ABUSE

The Administration's new program to fight drug abuse is being directed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Drug Abuse, chaired by Charles B. (Bud) Wilkinson, Special Consultant to the President.

The committee's objectives are:

- To improve existing programs and materials on drug abuse.
- To improve coordination of efforts of departments and agencies concerned with drug abuse.
- To improve upon and seek new ways by which concerned citizens can fight drug abuse.

Tearsheet Requests

Office of Communications, National Institute of Mental Health, LL02, Highland House, 5480 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, Md. 20015

Medical Centers Communicate Via Satellite

Communications via satellite have been established between four medical centers—the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, the University of Wisconsin, Stanford University, and the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md. The experimental series of voice communications was to demonstrate the potential of satellite communication in assisting practicing physicians in remote areas.

The technical objectives of this series of tests were to establish the feasibility of low-cost, easy to use transceivers, the feasibility of satellite communications, and the required fidelity for non-voice signal transmission.

In April 1970 the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications initiated the first series of group voice communications between widely separated locations. The experiment demonstrated the feasibility of medical group consultative sessions employing satellites between such distant points as a hospital in Alaska and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. Alaska experiences great difficulty in obtaining adequate communications via conventional ground links—the ham radio. The terrain, climate, and remoteness pose serious problems for terrestrial communications, but cause little difficulty in satellite communications. A similar situation exists in remote areas of the Pacific, such as Guam and the Pacific Trust Territories.

The Lister Hill Center's principal aim is to assist and establish communications in direct support of patient care in such remote areas. The objective is to provide a rudimentary communications capability where none exists.

In remote areas where health care is in the hands of community health aides, voice communications will enable the aides to query clinics or physicians about patient problems and to obtain professional diagnostic and therapeutic consultation or to arrange for the

emergency evacuation of a patient to a treatment center.

The Center serves as a focal point for the systems planning which is necessary for the success of the project. It serves as the technical adviser and is attempting to enlist the cooperation of physicians and medical centers in providing services in remote diagnosis and advice on treatment of a patient.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilitated and approved the use of the satellites ATS-1 and ATS-3 for purposes of biomedical communications. The ATS-1 satellite was launched into synchronous orbit on December 7, 1966, and is on station over the Pacific Ocean. The ATS-3 satellite, also in synchronous orbit, was launched on November 5, 1967, and is located over the Atlantic Ocean.

Satellite communications—utilizing NASA satellites—appear in many cases to require the most inexpensive, easy to install equipment, and provide the only means of communication for some areas. The equipment costs less than the ham radio used by health aides in many villages of Alaska. The transceiver loaned to the Center by NASA cost about \$700 and the antenna another \$79. The antenna is about the size of a home TV antenna; the transceiver about the size of a home radio set.

Subsequent tests will involve ECG transmissions, using existing ECG devices, information transfer between medical institutions, slow scan television transmission, and the first satellite transmission of color photograph facsimile. The color photograph facsimile transmission will be conducted between Stanford University and the Lister Hill Center. Phototype equipment developed by Litton Industries will be loaned for the experiment. The General Electric Company will loan several of its transmitter and receiver devices to the Lister Hill Center and other participants for experimental use in these tests.